



LETTER REPORT  
FOR  
MAPLE LAKE BOAT DOCK  
WILLOW SPRINGS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
TDD: S05-9812-018  
PAN: 8D1801RZXX

March 31, 1999

Prepared for:

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Emergency Response Branch  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Prepared by: John A. Nordine  
John A. Nordine, START Project Manager

Date: 3-31-99

Reviewed by: P. M. Zwilling  
P. M. Zwilling, Assistant START Program Manager

Date: 3/31/99

Approved by: M. J. Ripp  
M. J. Ripp, START Program Manager

Date: 3/31/99



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## ecology and environment, inc.

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March 31, 1999

Ms. Gail Nabasny  
START Project Officer  
Emergency Support Section  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: Maple Lake Boat Dock  
Willow Springs, Cook County, Illinois  
TDD: S05-9812-018  
PAN: 8D1801RZXX

Dear Ms. Nabasny:

On, December 23, 1998, the Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E & E), Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) was tasked by the Emergency Response Branch (ERB) of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to conduct emergency response activities at the Maple Lake Boat Dock (MLBD) site located in Willow Springs, Cook County, Illinois, (Attachment A, Figure 1) under Technical Direction Document (TDD) S05-9812-018. START was tasked to prepare and implement a health and safety plan, compile and review background information, document conditions at the site, conduct air monitoring and multi-media sampling, and evaluate threats to human health and the environment. The emergency response was performed in accordance with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 300, Section 300.415 to evaluate on-site conditions and possible threats to human health, welfare, and the environment. The emergency response was conducted on December 23, 1998, and December 28 through 29, 1998, under the authority of U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Walter Nied and Sam Borries. This report summarizes START emergency response activities.

The MLBD site is the location of an illegal drum dumping in a Cook County Forest Preserve park area called Maple Lake. Geographic coordinates for the site are latitude 41°42'42" N and longitude 87°53'26" W. Entrance to MLBD site is located off 95<sup>th</sup> Street in Willow Springs, Cook County, Illinois (Attachment A, Figure 2). The drum dumping occurred in two locations along a driveway at the back end of the south entrance to Maple Lake Park. The south entrance also features the Maple Lake Boat Dock. The site is bordered to the south by another Cook County Forest Preserve park, to the north by Maple Lake and 95<sup>th</sup> Street, to the east by a heavily wooded area, and to the west by the park driveway and parking lot. The nearest residences are approximately 2 miles southwest of the site. The approximately 50-acre site is located in a undeveloped area of unincorporated Cook County and is part of the largest preserve under the jurisdiction of the Cook County Forest Preserve.

The site is comprised of a lake, boat dock, and associated parking and driveways and is used for recreational purposes.

On December 23, 1998, a truck loaded with drums was observed by an eyewitness at the site. Drums were allegedly dumped at two ends of the back driveway of the site by the occupants of the truck. Twenty-two 55-gallon drums were left on-site, most of which were rusted and in poor condition. Because many of the drums were open, their contents were spilled on the ground after they were dumped. There were few, if any, markings on the drums. There was evidence that some of the drums had markings mechanically rubbed off. The Cook County Forest Preserve Police (CCFPP) reported the incident to U.S. EPA.

At 1400 hours, on December 23, 1998, START members Chad Gibson and Steven Skare mobilized to the MLBD site. START met with OSCs Sam Borries and Callie Ballantino; Don Klopke of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA); John Singler and Eric Hohn of the U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division (CID); and personnel from the CCFPP. Prior to and at the time of START's arrival at the site, OSCs Borries and Ballantino conducted an initial reconnaissance of the site and spill area. START also performed an initial reconnaissance and conducted photodocumentation of on-site conditions (Attachment B).

START performed air monitoring of the drums using a photoionization detector (PID) and a combustible gas indicator/oxygen meter (CGI/oxygen meter). No readings above background levels were recorded in the breathing zone. START collected seven samples from open top 55-gallon drums. Many drums contained ice and debris. Samples D2 through D6 were yellow or white solids. Drum sample D1 contained brown sludge, possibly a resin. Drum sample D7 was a light yellow semisolid material. The seven samples were allowed to warm up and head space readings were collected with a PID. All seven drum samples had PID levels greater than 2,000 parts per million (ppm) organic vapors. START conducted pH and flammability testing of samples D1 and D7. The results for both samples indicated pH values of 7 standard units and negative for flammability. Each sample was returned to its respective drum.

At 1945 hours on December 23, 1998, removal activities were initiated by the Emergency Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor Environmental Quality Management (EQM). The ERRS crew overpacked all drums. Any spilled material from a drum was placed into the same overpack drum. One overpack drum was used for the containerization of contaminated soil and used personnel protection equipment. The 23 overpacked drums were loaded into a rental box truck, and transported for storage at the Cook County Forest Preserve Headquarters (CCFPH) facility located on McCarthy Road, Willow Springs, Illinois, in a locked, secure location.

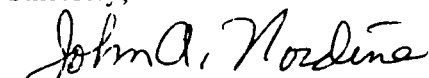
On December 28, 1998, U.S. EPA, START, and ERRS remobilized to the CCFPH and met with U.S. EPA CID, IEPA, and Cook County CID representatives to continue emergency removal activities. The Cook County Forest Preserve provided a heated garage bay to sample the drums. ERRS placed plastic sheeting on the garage floor and over a doorway, then staged the drums. START conducted air monitoring inside the garage area with a PID and CGI oxygen meter. No readings above background were recorded in the breathing zone. Two drums with elevated PID readings at their opening were covered over to contain organic vapors. The frozen drums were allowed to thaw for the entire day.

On December 29, 1998, U.S. EPA, START, and ERRS remobilized to the CCFPH and met with U.S. EPA CID agent Singler and Cook County CID agent Diana Funk. ERRS and START collected three samples from each drum for hazardous characterization, a disposal composite sample, and a sample for the U.S. EPA CID laboratory. The U.S. EPA CID laboratory is the National Environmental Investigation Center (NEIC) located in Denver, Colorado. START performed hazardous characterization on the drum samples, and the drums were placed into three groups: four drums of semi-solids, eight drums of liquids, ten drums of solids, and one drum of personnel protective equipment. The samples collected for U.S. EPA CID laboratory were shipped via Federal Express overnight on December 29, 1998.

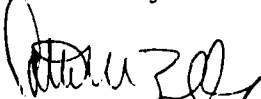
On March 15, 1999, U.S. EPA, START, and ERRS remobilized to the CCFPH facility. The drums were transported and disposed of at the ENSA facility in South Bend, Indiana.

This Letter Report represents the final deliverable for the MLBD site. All tasks pertaining to this TDD are completed. If you have any questions or need any additional information regarding the site, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,



John A. Nordine, CPG  
START Project Manager



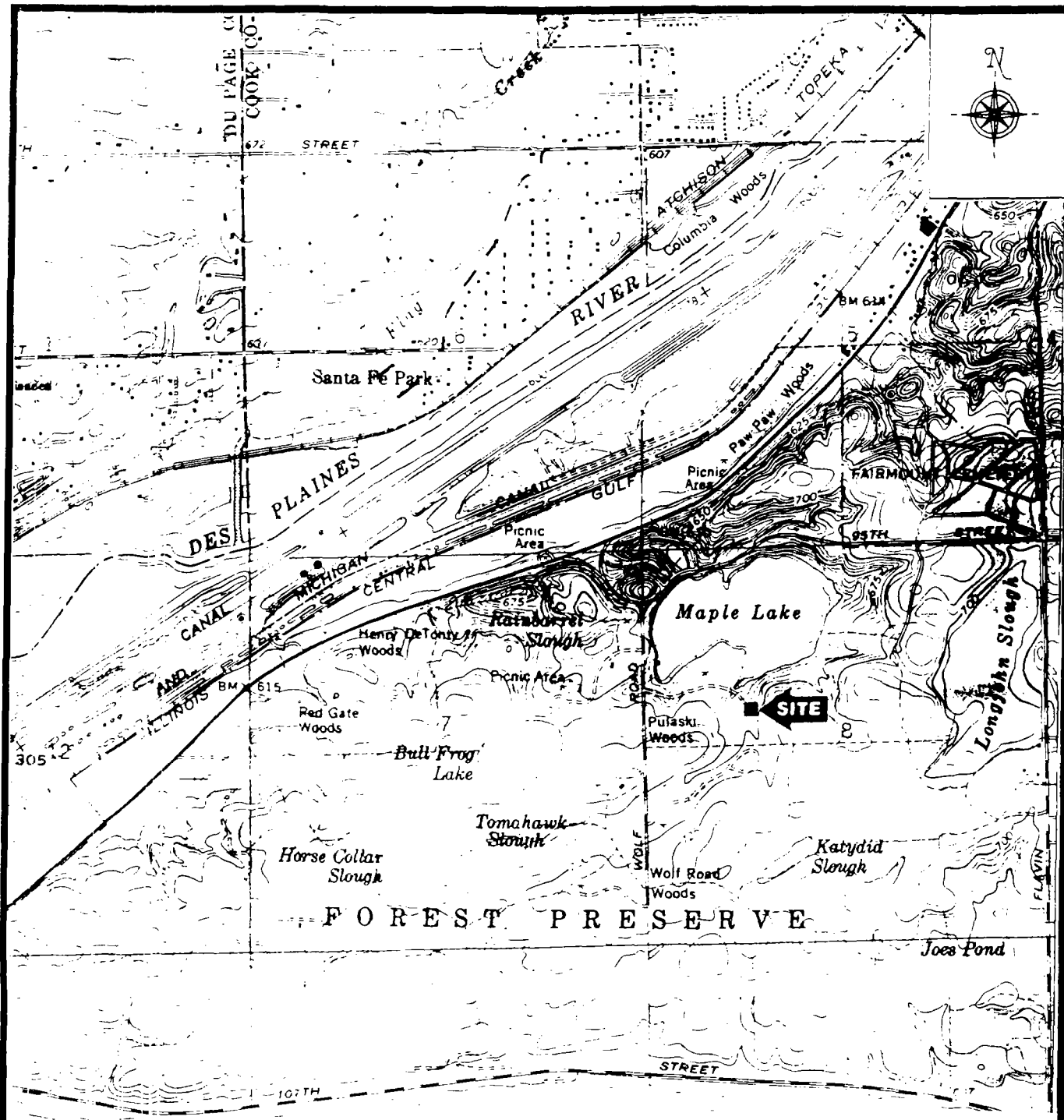
for Mary Jane Ripp  
START Program Manager

Attachments: A - Site Maps  
B - Photodocumentation

cc: Walter Nied, U.S. EPA OSC  
Site File - S05-9812-018

**Attachment A**

**Site Maps**



Quadrangle Location

Illinois



**ecology and environment, inc.**

Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team

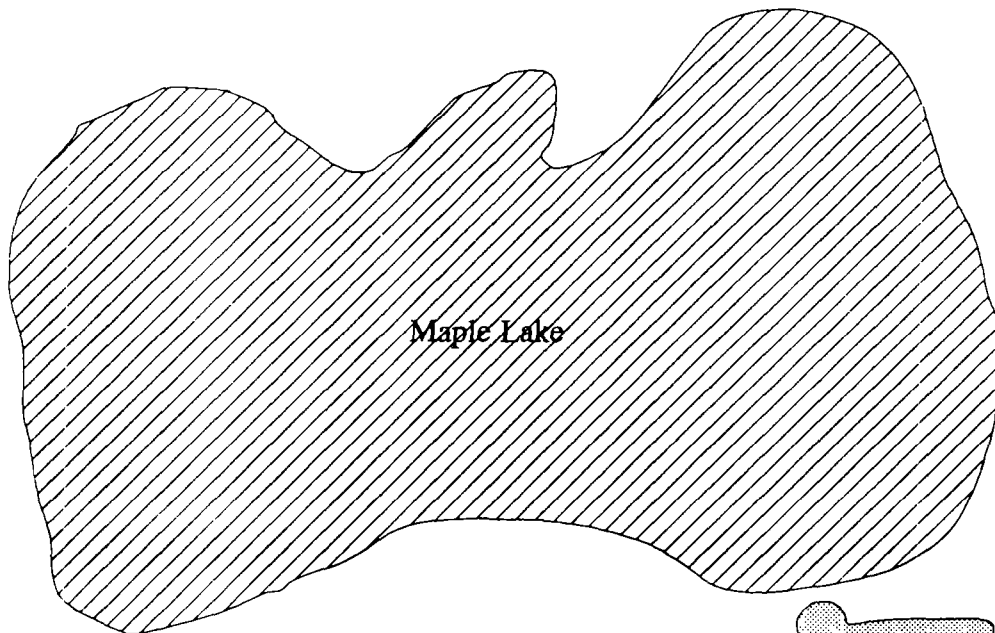
Region 5

33 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602

Title	Site Location Map	Figure	1
Site	Maple Lake Boat Dock Site	Scale	1:24000
City	Willow Springs	State	Illinois
		TDD	S05-9812-018
Source	U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Series Sag Bridge	Date	1963
	Quadrangle	Revised	1973



To 95th Street



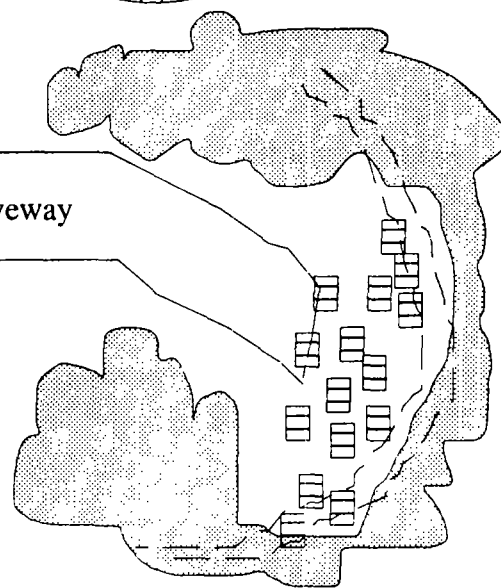
Park  
entrance

Drum D1



Parking lot

Driveway



### Legend



Drum



Lake



Ditch



Wooded area



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Region 5  
33 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602

Title	Site Features Map	Figure	2
Site	Maple Lake Boat Dock Site	Scale	Not to scale
City	Willow Springs	State	Illinois
Source	Ecology and Environment, Inc	TDD	S05-9812-018
		Date	2/22/99

**Attachment B**

**Photodocumentation**





**SITE:** Maple Lake Boat Dock

**DATE:** December 23, 1998

**TIME:** 1615 hours

**LOCATION:** Willow Springs, IL

**DIRECTION:** Southeast

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** S. Skare

**SUBJECT:** Location of dumped drums at a back end of park driveway. Some drums were stacked on each other.



**SITE:** Maple Lake Boat Dock

**DATE:** December 23, 1998

**TIME:** 1616 hours

**LOCATION:** Willow Springs, IL

**DIRECTION:** East

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** S. Skare

**SUBJECT:** Many drums were located in a ditch behind the driveway.



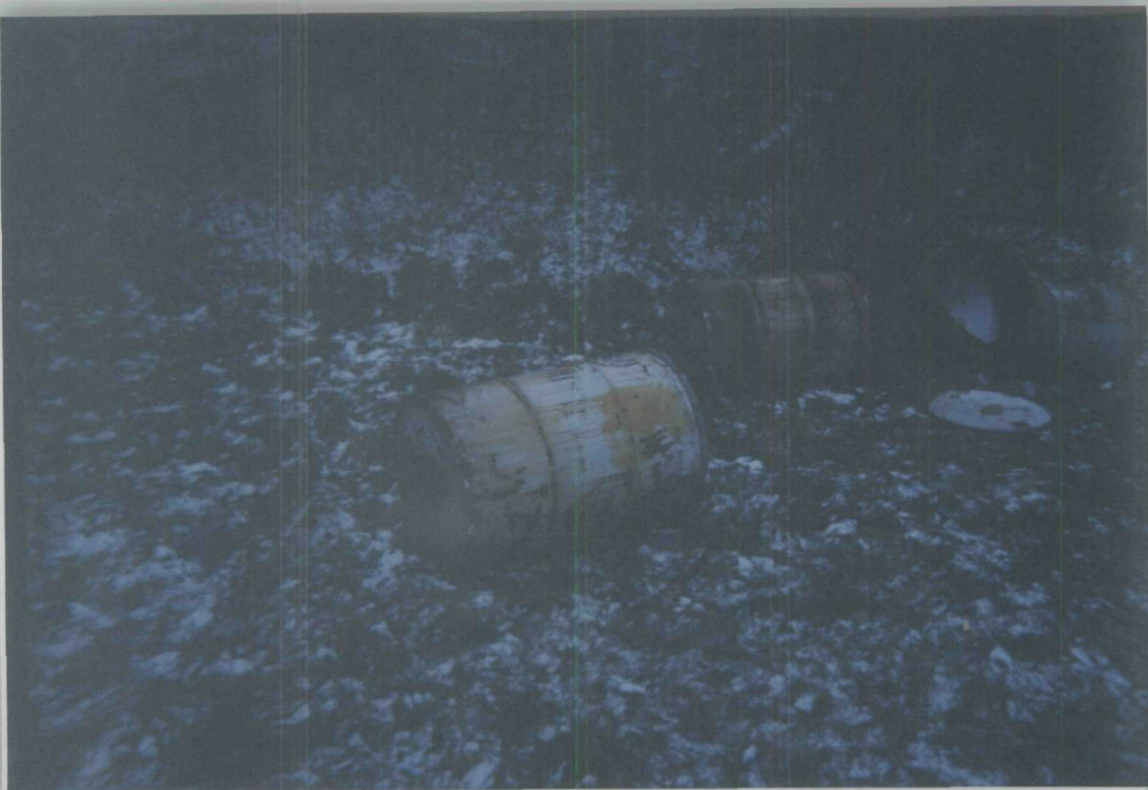


**SITE:** Maple Lake Boat Dock  
**LOCATION:** Willow Springs, IL

**DATE:** December 23, 1998  
**DIRECTION:** East

**TIME:** 1617 hours  
**PHOTOGRAPHER:** S. Skare

**SUBJECT:** Closeup view of a drum turned upside down with its contents spilled onto the ground.



**SITE:** Maple Lake Boat Dock  
**LOCATION:** Willow Springs, IL

**DATE:** December 23, 1998  
**DIRECTION:** Northeast

**TIME:** 1617 hours  
**PHOTOGRAPHER:** S. Skare

**SUBJECT:** Many of the drums were open, on their sides, and exposed to the elements.





**SITE:** Maple Lake Boat Dock

**DATE:** December 23, 1998

**TIME:** 1618 hours

**LOCATION:** Willow Springs, IL

**DIRECTION:** Down

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** S. Skare

**SUBJECT:** The lid of a drum with red "flammable liquid" label lying next to open drum.



**SITE:** Maple Lake Boat Dock

**DATE:** December 23, 1998

**TIME:** 1618 hours

**LOCATION:** Willow Springs, IL

**DIRECTION:** North

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** S. Skare

**SUBJECT:** Drums in the ditch, many in rusted and poor condition and open to the environment.



**SITE:** Maple Lake Boat Dock  
**LOCATION:** Willow Springs, IL  
**SUBJECT:** View of stacked drums alongside the park driveway the site. Many drums had rolled down into a ditch.

**DATE:** December 23, 1998  
**DIRECTION:** West

**TIME:** 1619 hours  
**PHOTOGRAPHER:** S. Skare



**SITE:** Maple Lake Boat Dock  
**LOCATION:** Willow Springs, IL  
**SUBJECT:** A view of dumped drums.

**DATE:** December 23, 1998  
**DIRECTION:** Northwest

**TIME:** 1619 hours  
**PHOTOGRAPHER:** S. Skare





**SITE:** Maple Lake Boat Dock

**DATE:** December 23, 1998

**TIME:** 1620 hours

**LOCATION:** Willow Springs, IL

**DIRECTION:** Southwest

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** S. Skare

**SUBJECT:** An open drum in the ditch at the end of park driveway.



**SITE:** Maple Lake Boat Dock

**DATE:** December 23, 1998

**TIME:** 1625 hours

**LOCATION:** Willow Springs, IL

**DIRECTION:** Down

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** S. Skare

**SUBJECT:** Closeup view of drum D1.



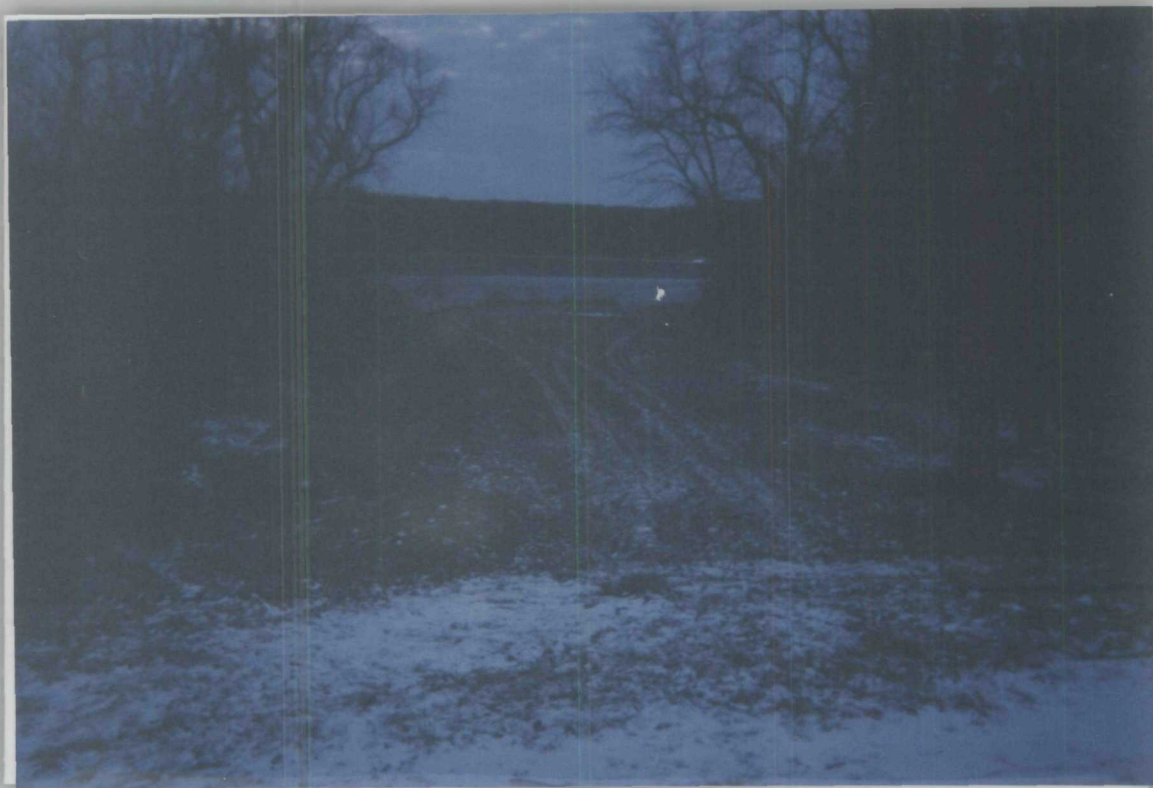


**SITE:** Maple Lake Boat Dock  
**LOCATION:** Willow Springs, IL

**DATE:** December 23, 1998  
**DIRECTION:** Down

**TIME:** 1624 hours  
**PHOTOGRAPHER:** S. Skare

**SUBJECT:** Drum D1 near front of the park driveway with a brown sludge material that spilled on the ground.



**SITE:** Maple Lake Boat Dock  
**LOCATION:** Willow Springs, IL

**DATE:** December 23, 1998  
**DIRECTION:** North

**TIME:** 1626 hours  
**PHOTOGRAPHER:** S. Skare

**SUBJECT:** View of nearby Maple Lake as seen from the park driveway.





**SITE:** Maple Lake Boat Dock

**DATE:** December 23, 1998

**TIME:** 1830 hours

**LOCATION:** Willow Springs, IL

**DIRECTION:** Southeast

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** S. Skare

**SUBJECT:** The content of drum D7 was a light yellow semisolid material.



**SITE:** Maple Lake Boat Dock

**DATE:** December 23, 1998

**TIME:** 2000 hours

**LOCATION:** Willow Springs, IL

**DIRECTION:** Down

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** S. Skare

**SUBJECT:** View of an overpacked drum with exposed frozen contents. Many drums contained ice and frozen debris.





**SITE:** Maple Lake Boat Dock  
**LOCATION:** Willow Springs, IL

**DATE:** December 23, 1998  
**DIRECTION:** Southeast

**TIME:** 2230 hours  
**PHOTOGRAPHER:** S. Skare

**SUBJECT:** The overpacked drums were staged at the end of park driveway.



**SITE:** Maple Lake Boat Dock  
**LOCATION:** Willow Springs, IL

**DATE:** December 23, 1998  
**DIRECTION:** Northeast

**TIME:** 2300 hours  
**PHOTOGRAPHER:** S. Skare

**SUBJECT:** Drum being pulled out of the ditch by a winch on the U.S. EPA emergency response vehicle.





**SITE:** Maple Lake Boat Dock

**DATE:** December 23, 1998

**TIME:** 2231 hours

**LOCATION:** Willow Springs, IL

**DIRECTION:** Southeast

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** S. Skare

**SUBJECT:** Up righted drums awaiting to be overpacked and secured by the emergency response cleanup crew.